

House File 36

HOUSE FILE _____
BY HUSER and RAECKER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to political campaigns by limiting campaign
2 contributions for statewide and legislative elections and
3 making penalties applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 1186YH 82
6 jr/je/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.506 CONTRIBUTIONS ==
1 2 LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNTS.
1 3 1. As used in this section, "cash" includes but is not
1 4 limited to a check, money order, or other negotiable
1 5 instrument.
1 6 2. The aggregate amount of a contribution made to a
1 7 candidate or a candidate's committee by a committee or person
1 8 other than the candidate shall not exceed the following
1 9 amounts:
1 10 a. For the office of member of the house of
1 11 representatives, five hundred dollars in cash and an
1 12 additional five hundred dollars of in-kind contributions for
1 13 each primary election, or in lieu thereof a convention of a
1 14 political party, and an equal amount for each general
1 15 election.
1 16 b. For the office of state senator, one thousand dollars
1 17 in cash and an additional one thousand dollars of in-kind
1 18 contributions for each primary election, or in lieu thereof a
1 19 convention of a political party, and an equal amount for each
1 20 general election.
1 21 c. For the office of a statewide elected official, as
1 22 defined in section 68B.2, ten thousand dollars in cash and an
1 23 additional ten thousand dollars of in-kind contributions for
1 24 each primary election, or in lieu thereof a convention of a
1 25 political party, and an equal amount for each general
1 26 election. The limits set out in this paragraph apply to the
1 27 governor and lieutenant governor together, as if the two
1 28 offices were one and the same.
1 29 3. The aggregate amount of a contribution made to a
1 30 candidate or a candidate's committee by a political party or
1 31 political organization, as defined in section 43.2, shall not
1 32 exceed the following amounts:
1 33 a. For the office of member of the house of
1 34 representatives, one thousand five hundred dollars in cash and
1 35 an additional four thousand five hundred dollars of in-kind
2 1 contributions for each primary election, or in lieu thereof a
2 2 convention of a political party, and an equal amount for each
2 3 general election.
2 4 b. For the office of state senator, three thousand dollars
2 5 in cash and an additional nine thousand dollars of in-kind
2 6 contributions for each primary election, or in lieu thereof a
2 7 convention of a political party, and an equal amount for each
2 8 general election.
2 9 c. For the office of a statewide elected official, as
2 10 defined in section 68B.2, thirty thousand dollars in cash and
2 11 an additional ninety thousand dollars of in-kind contributions
2 12 for each primary election, or in lieu thereof a convention of
2 13 a political party, and an equal amount for each general
2 14 election. The limits set out in this paragraph apply to the
2 15 governor and lieutenant governor together, as if the two
2 16 offices were one and the same.
2 17 4. A political party or political organization may
2 18 establish no more than one fund to provide contributions to a
2 19 candidate or a candidate's committee for the office of member

2 20 of the house of representatives or state senator or office of
2 21 a statewide elected official.

2 22 EXPLANATION

2 23 This bill relates to political campaigns and campaign
2 24 finance and disclosure, containing limitations on certain
2 25 contributions to candidates for statewide office or the
2 26 general assembly.

2 27 The bill limits contributions by a committee or any person
2 28 other than the candidate. The term "person" includes any
2 29 individual, corporation, government or governmental
2 30 subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust,
2 31 partnership or association, labor union, or any other legal
2 32 entity.

2 33 As provided in Code section 68A.701, willful violation of
2 34 these limitations is a serious misdemeanor punishable by
2 35 confinement for up to one year and a fine of at least \$315 but
3 1 not more than \$1,875. A variety of civil remedies are also
3 2 available in Code section 68B.32D, ranging from a reprimand to
3 3 a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000.

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